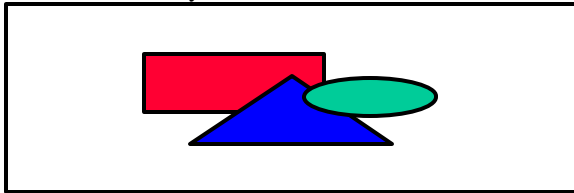


Long Island Utility Installs Fuel Cells

WEST BABYLON, New York, United States of America, Oct 31, 2001 (Environment News Service via COMTEX) --

Under a \$7 million program to demonstrate how fuel cell technology can generate electricity for Long Island consumers, the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) announced today that it has installed 55 fuel cells - manufactured by Plug Power - at its West Babylon substation. The fuel cell project is part of LIPA's Clean Energy Initiative (CEI), first proposed by New York Governor George Pataki as a way to promote new energy technologies and energy conservation projects. A total of 75 fuel cells will be installed at the substation. Eighteen of the 55 fuel cells are now installed and generating electricity for LIPA's grid. The program is intended to begin identifying and developing the measures and systems needed to facilitate the use of fuel cells operating in parallel with LIPA's electrical grid system. A fuel cell is a device that converts the energy of a fuel (hydrogen, natural gas, methanol, gasoline, etc.) and an oxidant (air or oxygen) into useable electricity. Unlike traditional fossil power plants that burn fuels, fuel cells generate electricity through an electrochemical process from which no particulate air pollution is produced. As a result, they do not contribute to the formation of smog and acid rain. LIPA's application of fuel cell technology will be the first large scale use of fuel cells for this purpose in New York State. "LIPA's mission is to provide safe, reliable, environmentally sound electricity for our customers' needs," said LIPA chair Richard Kessel. "Fuel cells are an environmentally friendly electric generating technology, and this project will help us develop a better understanding of how fuel cells can be integrated into our electric grid. In turn, the information and experience gained through this program will continue to help fuel cells evolve as a technology that can be utilized by electric utilities as a source of power, and eventually by residential and commercial customers for their own on site power needs."

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